

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08421 281203Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----124977 281204Z /53

P R 281127Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8839
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8421

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING

1. PAKISTANI MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE REPROCESSING ISSUE SEEMS TO BE TAPERING OFF, AND THE PAKISTANI PUBLIC APPEARS TO HAVE CLEARLY REALIZED THAT THE FRENCH ARE NOT GOING TO FURNISH THE PLANT. THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE FURTHER MEDIA DISCUSSION, AND PERHAPS ADDITIONAL REACTIVE STATEMENTS BY THE GOVT, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE (THOUGH NOT BY ANY MEANS CERTAIN) THAT THE HIGH POINT OF CONTROVERSY HAS ALREADY PASSED, HAVING ACHIEVED A MUCH LOWER LEVEL OF HEAT AND INDIGNATION THAN WE HAD FEARED. SOME PRO-PPP PAPERS HAVE ACCUSED THE GOVT OF WEAKNESS IN HANDLING THE ISSUE, BUT HAVE NOT SO FAR STIMULATED THE GOVT INTO DIRECTLY REBUTTING THE CHARGE. CONTINUED RESTRAINT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY US AND FRENCH OFFICIALS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HELPING TO AVOID AN ABRASIVE PUBLIC DEBATE HERE.

2. TWO ELEMENTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY ABSENT FROM THE MEDIA DIALOGUE:
(1) THERE HAVE BEEN NO GOVT SUGGESTIONS OF RETALIATION AGAINST THE US OR FRANCE, AND ONLY FLEETING SUGGESTIONS IN THE MEDIA; (2) THE LEVEL OF EMOTIONALISM IS SURPRISINGLY LOW, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED WITH ANTI-US ATTACKS IN THE MID-1960'S.

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3. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME WHETHER THE DEPT IS NOW FREE TO ENGAGE IN WIDER CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS LEADING TOWARD RESUMPTION OF AID AND MILITARY SALES -- OR WHETHER PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH ARE REQUIRED. NEXT WEEK WILL SEE CONGRESS BACK IN SESSION, AND I WOULD WELCOME AN ESTIMATE OF WHEN IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR ME TO COME TO WASHINGTON.

4. BEFORE LEAVING HERE I WOULD ASK FOR A MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA
CHIEFLY TO INFORM HIM THAT I AM RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR
CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING NORMALIZATION OF AID AND MILITARY SALES,
INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS, AND ALSO TO SEE WHAT ZIA CAN
SAY (PRESUMABLY SHORT OF RENOUNCING ALL REPROCESSING) THAT MIGHT
BE HELPFUL (AND NOT HURTFUL) TO NORMALIZATION OF OUR AID INPUTS.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
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